Damage to National Highways due to flood

5377. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have thought of handling the problem of recurring damage to the National Highways due to floods every year;

(b) if so, the steps taken to set right this annual ritual for the last five years;

(c) whether Government would seek help of the foreign countries to lay National Highways of international standards to avoid spending of crores of rupees on repair year after year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Permanent restoration works like raising of embankment, augmenting drainage, protection of embankment slopes, strengthening of pavement etc. are taken up in sections of National Highways affected by floods in a phased manner within the available resources.

(c) and (d) Requisite expertise is available within the country for design and construction of National Highways as per prescribed standards and there is no proposal for seeking assistance of any foreign country. However, some foreign consultants and contractor are already participating in road and bridge construction projects on National Highways.

Development work on NHs

5378. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of development works to be taken up or being taken up on NHs 39, 53 and 157;

(b) the time schedule for completion of the works on these National Highways; and

(c) the implementing agencies for the works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD